

JAMES S. EDWARDS, ADMINISTRATOR OF THOMAS
GEDNEY, DECEASED.

[To accompany Bill S. No. 207.]

MAY 18, 1860.

Mr. TAPPAN, from the Committee of Claims, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee of Claims, to whom was referred the Senate Bill No. 207, "for the relief of James L. Edwards, administrator of Thomas R. Gedney, deceased," have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report :

Claimant was a disbursing officer in the Coast Survey service, and on the settlement of his accounts at the Treasury Department the First Auditor certified \$1,655 10 to be due him from the United States, allowed as per instructions from the First Comptroller of the Treasury. The Comptroller endorses this allowance thus : " I admit and certify the above balance, this 30th of June, 1847, to be paid on or after the 1st of July, 1847." The Secretary of the Treasury afterwards endorsed this account as follows, in 1848 :

" The opinion of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, as well my own, is decidedly against this claim."

In 1849 Mr. Whittlesey says : " Having carefully examined all the papers, I find no mistakes in matters of fact or errors in calculation, the decisions and proceedings of the Auditor and Comptroller unreversed, and to my mind in full force." Mr. Meredith, however, declined acting, as Secretary Walker, his predecessor, had refused to allow the claim. Mr. Corwin, the successor of Mr. Meredith, refuses to allow the claim for the same reason. Subsequently the petitioner brought his claim before the Court of Claims, and the whole account was re-opened and re-adjusted. Judge Blackford delivered the opinion of the court, allowing the claimant \$496 60. After a careful examination of this action on the part of the Court of Claims, your committee fully concur in their conclusions, and report back the bill without amendment, and recommend its passage.

